



OPEN THE BORDERS

Eastern blocked **pages 10&11**
Reports of solidarity from France
and Greece **pages 4&5**



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2472 | 26 September 2015 | socialistworker.co.uk

AS TOFFS LAUNCH NEW ATTACKS

MAKE THE TORIES SQUEAL

MARCH ON TORY CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER 4 OCTOBER

ONE SHOCKING thing about Lord Aschroft's allegations against David Cameron is that it's hard to be all that shocked.

We're told the Tory prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland put a "private part of his anatomy" inside the head of a dead pig. It's exactly the sort of thing you'd expect to go on in the secretive clubs

where the poshest of the posh students remind themselves they were born to rule.

These Tory swine ooze contempt for the rest of us from every pore, while helping their pals get to the top in politics, the media and business.

Their falling out is our opportunity. Don't let Cameron save his bacon—it's time to give him the chop.



GREECE

Tsipras's return won't end anger at austerity

GREECE'S LATEST election returned Alexis Tsipras' coalition government to office—with fewer MPs and a record low number of votes.

First elected to fight austerity, he is now set to push through privatisations and cuts. But these are as unpopular as ever and look set to face resistance.

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POLITICS



Labour MPs plot to force Corbyn to compromise

LABOUR'S SHADOW foreign secretary Hilary Benn and London mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan are the latest MPs to attack new leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Left winger Corbyn was elected in defiance of the Labour establishment, and they are out to push him into compromise.

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NATIONAL GALLERY

Growing support gives strikers' action a boost

THE TUC has called a day of action in support of the National Gallery workers on Wednesday of this week.

It's the 100th day of their strike against privatisation.

Teachers visited their picket line last week and Jeremy Corbyn spoke in their support.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I will not dignify Lord Ashcroft's allegations by offering any comment'

David Cameron's spin doctor at 11am Monday

'Total crap'

David Cameron's spin doctor changes her mind at 12 noon Monday

'The pig's head story is malicious gossip'

A founder member of the posho Piers Gaveston society

'Lord Ashcroft's story about Cameron and the pig would not have passed the basic standards demanded by a tabloid newspaper'

Former political editor of the News of the World Ian Kirby shows a lack of self awareness

'Could any supporter of Corbyn have created this rumour'

The Independent just about doesn't blame Corbyn for Snouflage

'Is that it?'

Tory Toby Young in an article called "Is that really the best Lord Ashcroft could dig up?"



Porkies, prime ministers and the posho pig parties

DAVID CAMERON is accused of having sex with a dead pig.

Lord Ashcroft, who was once close to Cameron, fell out with the prime minister after he was passed over for a role in the last government.

He gave £8 million to the Tories and thinks it should have bought him a job.

His book Call Me Dave says that in addition to being a member of the Bullingdon Club while he was studying at Oxford University, Cameron was also in the Piers Gaveston Society.

Aside from quaffing champagne and eating caviar, the centrepiece of the Piers Gaveston social calendar is its summer ball.

Each member invites 20 guests, who are bussed out to a secret location for a party that on occasion has been

described as "a well organised orgy".

A member described it, "Imagine a Colombian branch of Superdrug, except where everyone is called Tarquin."

A "source", who is now an MP, is also quoted in the book as saying that during Cameron's initiation into the society he "put a private part of his anatomy" into a dead pig's mouth.

The book also claims that Cameron knew in 2009 that Lord Ashcroft had "non dom" status and therefore did not pay tax on overseas earnings.

Which matters because he gave all that cash to the Tories. And Cameron may have lied about it.

So the things they do to get on are gross.

And when they fall out it gets nasty.

A READER writes to inform us that they wrote to the Sun to complain over the Murdoch rag's coverage of Jeremy Corbyn. They were surprised at the response from the Sun. It said, "We're sorry to hear you are to boycott the paper, but personally in light of the recent attacks on Mr Corbyn, I don't blame you. It has been a case of shoddy journalism really. Don't reply to this email as I will get in trouble if it is uncovered."



SIR NICHOLAS Soames is suffering so painfully with back problems he is facing surgery.

The old Etonian grandson of Sir Winston Churchill is just about the poshest Tory there is.

A friend said the esteemed politician is, "Really bad. About as bad as it gets—he's not even going grouse shooting."

Spooks demand more powers again

BRITISH SPOOKS don't interfere with democracy. Not openly that is.

Except the director-general of MI5 Andrew "Nosey" Parker popped along to Radio 4 to warn that upcoming legislation to expand the investigatory powers of the British intelligence agencies, a "snoopers' charter", was crucial to prevent acts of terrorism.

A backlash against the activities of the US's National Security Agency and Britain's GCHQ has led to the greater use of encryption—a

shift that is hindering the poor spies.

It was unfair to compare a demand for access to data for British spies to a request from Russian or Chinese spies.

IN A strange coincidence, Britain's cyber intelligence agency, the GCHQ, has released new guidance suggesting people should avoid complex passwords for their online accounts. Can't

What's my password?

Peak Tory hypocrisy over Irish terrorism

JOHN McDonnell, the shadow chancellor, apologised for suggesting in 2003 that the IRA should be honoured for the bombings which brought the British government "to the negotiating table".

As it happens Troublemaker thinks the British government are the ones who should do the apologising. Having

created a sectarian state, every intervention by Britain managed to make the situation worse.

Nigel Dodds, the unionist DUP's leader at Westminster, accused John McDonnell of being in league with the IRA.

Dodds once went to the paramilitary funeral of Loyalist terrorist John Bingham. Brothel keeper Bingham oversaw the shooting of Catholics who had the temerity to come on his turf. DUP leader Peter Robinson's involvement with Ulster Resistance, a paramilitary

DUP leader Peter Robinson

Refugees are coming here, growing grass

TROUBLEMAKER regular Ukip MEP Tim Aker rants that refugees are to blame for the height of grass in his constituency.

"The state of the grass verges, pavements and roads in Tilbury is disgusting. I pay my council tax so why isn't the grass being cut and why aren't the streets being cleaned?"

"I mean, when you pay your taxes and you work hard and all sorts, do you pay it for Angela Merkel to throw at the European Union?"

"Even today [Ukip MEPs] voted to stop the fact that the European Union is going to resettle these refugees."



PIG OF THE WEEK

No. 456345

Former Tory treasurer Lord Ashcroft

● Donated millions to help the Tories win marginal seats

● Says David Cameron knew all about his tax status when he donated

● Gave up non-dom tax status to stay a Lord

● Was offered the job of junior whip. He said, "after ploughing some £8 million into the party, I regarded this as a declineable offer. It would have been better had Cameron offered me nothing at all."

Cops carry drink for 'Lager toffs'

Police were spotted scanning at least 50 cases of posh plonk with an X-Ray machine ahead of the Tory party conference to be held in Manchester next month.

One ham-fisted policeman managed to drop a bottle of champagne, smashing it on the pavement.

Apparently the go-to drink for the do is "Lager Toffs"—a pint of Tennent's topped up with fizz—a firm favourite among young Tory activists.

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Manchester is our chance to step up the fightback

by SADIE ROBINSON

NEW TORY attacks will make life harder for the poorest people in Britain.

They plan to announce an end to free hot meals for infant school children in November.

And they forced through swingeing cuts to tax credits on Tuesday of last week.

Currently a household earning up to £6,420 a year receives the full amount of tax credits they are allowed to claim.

Households earning more than this receive less in credits as their income rises.

But the income threshold will be nearly halved to just £3,850 a year from next April—hitting the lowest paid workers.

Katrina Lawrie, a care assistant in Wigan, is one of those affected. She told Socialist Worker, “I don’t know how much I’m going to lose. But losing anything will take us below the breadline.

“We’re barely surviving as it is.”

Katrina is a low-paid worker on a 24-hour a week contract.

Her eldest son’s college course isn’t funded because he is 19 years old—so Katrina pays £100 a month for it.

Winter

“I’m a single parent with four children in school and two in college,” she said. “I can’t afford school dinners anymore—it’s £10 a week each—so they take packed lunches.

“That’s OK at the moment, but in winter you need a hot meal.

“I’m dreading school trips coming up because I don’t know how I’ll pay for them. And there will be no family holiday next year.”

The Tories’ spiteful attacks came as at least 50 crates of champagne arrived in Manchester ahead of their annual conference in October.



TRADE UNIONISTS march on 250,000-strong People’s Assembly demo in June

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

But their class war is generating resistance.

Coaches are booked from across Britain to take people to a TUC demonstration against the Tories in Manchester on 4 October.

And the People’s Assembly has organised a week of events throughout the conference.

Jasmine Fischer has been helping to publicise the protests in Manchester.

She told Socialist

Worker, “We had lots of people out leafletting on Saturday.

“There was a really good atmosphere.”

Jasmine said many people weren’t aware the Tories were about to descend on the city. Getting the word out in the last few weeks will be key.

But she added, “People were interested to find out what

was going on. Everyone I spoke to said they would try to come on the 4 October demonstration.”

Katrina will be marching too. She said it was important to unite and blame the government, not refugees or migrants, for poverty.

“There is plenty of money for working class people—whether they are refugees or people born here,” she said.

“But it’s spent on illegal wars, Trident nuclear missiles and to bail out the banks.

“Capitalism isn’t working for the working class.”



Katrina Lawrie with her children

What’s your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Benefit cuts to blame for man’s suicide

THE DECISION to stop severely ill Michael O’Sullivan’s benefits led directly to his death, a coroner has ruled.

He hanged himself in 2013 after one of the government’s notorious Work Capability Assessment (WCA) tests found him “fit for work”.

His GP had certified him as unable to work. Three doctors had given the opinion that he suffered recurring depression.

Disability rights campaigners have exposed dozens of deaths that WCA decisions appear to have caused or contributed to—either by driving people to suicide or aggravating their conditions.

This is this first coroner’s decision that directly blames the WCA for a



Protesting against Maximus

death. Senior coroner Mary Hassell was so concerned she warned the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that more people would die if the system wasn’t changed.

She wrote, “I found that the trigger for Mr O’Sullivan’s suicide was his recent assessment. In my opinion, there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken.”

Since then hated Atos Healthcare, the company responsible for WCAs, has pulled out due to reputational damage. But staff at successor Maximus have spoken out about a bullying atmosphere that pressures them to find as many people fit for work as possible.

Dave Sewell

IN BRIEF

Two-day strike on London Tube

WATERLOO AND City Line Tube control staff are set to strike for 50 hours from 9pm on Monday of next week.

The workers’ RMT union says bosses have failed to address issues around regrading and imposed changes to duties.

Fresh evidence on Hillsborough

INQUESTS INTO the deaths of fans who died as a result of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster have heard evidence of signs of life in some victims.

Some 96 Liverpool football fans died as a result.

The inquests continue.

Longer at socialistworker.co.uk

Police defend abuse inquiry

THE MET Police has issued a statement saying the inquiry into allegations of historic child abuse by establishment figures is still ongoing.

The statement comes amid reports that the Operation Midland inquiry, was not progressing.

Finland defies cocktail of cuts

A ONE-DAY strike against austerity ground Finland to a halt on Friday of last week.

The stoppage by three unions shut down ports, grounded or delayed the national airline’s flights and disrupted trains.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 SWP statement on election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Party leader
- 2 Letter to a Jeremy Corbyn supporter
- 3 Sellafeld construction workers begin wildcat strike
- 4 Yanis Varoufakis —“Left should beware of friends who fear confronting the rich”
- 5 Refugees welcome here rallies and Labour leadership results as they happened

●Defend our unions

●Stop the Tories’ Trade Union Bill

Unite the Resistance public rally

4 OCTOBER
MANCHESTER

straight after TUC demo

The Comedy Store,
Arches 3 & 4 Deansgate Locks,
Whitworth Street West M1 5LH



Crackdown exposes EU leaders' lies on refugees

Refugee crisis sees Fortress Europe's walls go up despite rhetoric of help, write **Dave Sewell** and **Ken Olende**

FRENCH POLICE attacked two squats in Calais town centre where Syrian refugees were staying early on Monday morning of this week.

The Syrians weren't even given time to gather their possessions. They resisted attempts to drive them to the "Jungle" shantytown—but cops then drove vans at them.

There had been a number of refugee squats around Calais until this year, when cops forcibly drove them all into the Jungle.

But the Syrians had been tolerated as an exception—until now.

At the jungle itself cops tore up tents of people with nowhere else to live.

The clashes follow a new death at Britain's border in Calais.

Roof

A man believed to be Syrian was electrocuted on Thursday of last week trying to get onto the roof of a Eurotunnel train.

More than 30 people have drowned in the Mediterranean in the past week.

European Union (EU) leaders were set to meet in another attempt to work out a plan to deal with refugees as Socialist Worker went to press.

The German government has

BACK STORY

The crisis has seen the biggest movement of people in Europe since the Second World War

● There were more than 10 million "displaced persons" across Europe in 1945

● Four million refugees have left Syria during the current crisis

● Yet most are not heading for Europe—they have fled to neighbouring countries

● Britain has accepted just 216 Syrian refugees so far. Other EU states have taken many more

stated that it hopes to sort out the distribution of 160,000 refugees across EU countries.

Given the scale of the crisis this is a drop in the ocean—some 500,000 people are expected to cross the Mediterranean this year alone.

Germany said that it expects to take in 800,000 during the crisis. Poland has now agreed to take 9,000 refugees.

The British government has accepted just 216 Syrian refugees. David Cameron says the scheme has been "moderately expanded".

Cameron says Britain will take 20,000 over the next five years—but



LIFE JACKETS and deflated dinghies strewn along just one part of the coast of the island of Lesbos in Greece

PICTURE: AMAL AZZUDIN

only by selecting people from camps near Syria.

He has specifically said Britain will not take anyone who has fled "illegally" across Europe.

One part of the EU plan is to set up "hot spots" in Greece and Italy.

Vetted

It wants new arrivals quickly vetted, to separate "genuine" refugees from economic migrants.

Socialist Worker believes that no one should be stopped.

But in any case this fast track system is bound to cause further misery as it decides who is

"authentic" in just a few minutes.

As one border closes the flow of desperate people is redirected.

So the completion of Hungary's anti-migrant wall led to 25,000 people crossing the border into Croatia last week.

The opening and closing of the borders of various eastern European states is partly predicated on how prepared Western countries are to take refugees.

The crisis got worse when the German government closed its borders.

Many news reports have highlighted the barbarity of the

Hungarian wall blocking migrants and refugees getting into Fortress Europe.

Yet fewer have compared it to the similar wall the British government has erected in Calais.

And there has been no condemnation of attempts to suggest that all the refugees there are "economic migrants" or should have asked for asylum in France.

We say—let them in.

On other pages...

Eastern Blocked—how the refugee crisis is spreading in the east>>Pages 10&11

Let's all stand up to racism

Campaigners have built solidarity meetings around Britain with refugees.

Around 100 people met in central London on Monday of this week in a meeting organised by Stand Up to Racism.

Maz Saleem said that the recent trip to Calais had raised over £9,000 and aid is now being coordinated through Calais Aid.



Maz Saleem

Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) joint national secretary Weyman

Bennett said, "We've got a window of opportunity to save people's lives."

He called on people to set up SUTR groups wherever they are to challenge anti-migrant lies and organise help.

Street meetings for refugees have been held in cities across Britain including Portsmouth and Bolton.

standuptoracism.org.uk

'People arrive in shock and distress'

MARGARET WOODS from the Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees is on a solidarity trip to Greece.

She spoke to Socialist Worker from a reception centre on the island of Lesbos.

"The people arriving are exhausted. They are given a jam sandwich and a bottle of water.

"There's some juice for the kids. It's not much but it all costs money."

Margaret spoke to a Syrian from a part of Damascus that the regime has bombed flat.

He said, "We could see the island from far off and felt hopeful.

"There were about 50 of us in the boat including children and babies.

Chance

"We knew we might not survive the trip, but we can't go back. This is our only chance to live."

Amal Azzudin, who is also from the campaign and is herself a refugee in Britain, is part of the delegation.

She helped refugees out of boats on the beach.

She said, "They are all wet. The people are shocked and distressed. We've seen five boats come in already this morning.

"People who want to help should collect blankets or warm clothing. They could just send money.

The NGO we are working with here is from the Netherlands, the Boat Refugee Foundation."

'I am not an animal—I am a human being'

THOUSANDS OF refugees and supporters marched through Calais last Saturday demanding the border was opened, including Stand up to Racism activists from London and Birmingham.

Sylvie Desjonqueres is from Emmaus, one of the charities working with the refugees that called the demonstration.

She told Socialist Worker, "More people are dying because it's been made almost impossible to get across the border."

Conditions are desperate. Nisar left Afghanistan to flee the Taliban. He told Socialist Worker, "We are in fear of our lives. I came here with no shoes and I still have no shoes.

"I am not an animal, I am a human being."

Birmingham activist Adam Yosef said, "Refugees from various countries got together to march in solidarity, protest against their treatment and chant in their own languages."

Anti-racists across Britain have been raising money and collecting goods to send



Protesting in Calais last Saturday

PICTURE: PAUL STRINGER

to Calais. Sylvie said this is important—especially as winter approaches—and so is campaigning against the border.

She said, "Humans have always migrated.

"Today they are being blocked, and that's what is creating this situation."

Nisar agreed. He said, "Tell David Cameron to open the border—we want to work."

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TORY CLASS WARRIORS WALLOW IN HYPOCRISY

THE TORIES and their friends have tried their best to shrug off Lord Ashcroft's allegation about David Cameron and the pig. They have failed.

The widespread delight at the story was often class based.

For years we've known about the debauchery and arrogance of the elite, despite their attempts to hide it.

So there was a feeling of vindication.

And the backlash against Cameron demonstrates anger at the hypocrisy that surrounds the ruling class.

At their private drinking clubs the Tories sang songs about despising poor people while they trashed restaurants and rampaged through the streets.

They threw money at waiters and wrote off any damage with a large cheque.

There were never any recriminations.

Contrast this to the 2011 riots. Courts stayed open throughout the night to prosecute people for taking part in the uprising against police brutality.

One man was jailed for 16 months for wandering into a

shop and taking a lick of some ice cream. Another was jailed for four years just for walking into a jewellery shop.

After the riots the man who now stands accused of having sex with a dead pig was in despair.

He moaned about the "worst aspects of human nature tolerated, indulged—sometimes even incentivised—by a state and its agencies that in parts have become literally demoralised".

He stated, "Irresponsibility. Selfishness. Behaving as if your choices have no consequences. Reward without effort."

He wondered, "Do we have the determination to confront the slow-motion moral collapse

that has taken place in parts of our country these past few generations?"

The Tories and the papers that back them like to depict the working class as feral criminals.

But while the rich get to indulge in copious amounts of drugs at their parties, the poor get to feel the force of the law.

In the queen's speech this year the Tories outlined plans for a new "guilty until proven innocent" rule on all drugs in an attempt to clamp down on "legal highs".

Working class people have had their fill of being told are they are feckless, lazy and greedy.

The Tories say benefits have to be cut because people are "dependent" on them.

This comes from a group of people whose wealth is inherited, or made off of the back of the hard work of the people they despise.

Cameron wanted to be the Tory leader who shed the old toxic image of a bunch of guffawing elites.

His hope lies in tatters.

The more we hear about the Chipping Norton set, the more determined it should make us to get rid of them.

Cameron's hope of shedding the toxic image of guffawing elites lies in tatters

LET THEM EAT PROSCIUTTO

THE RUSSIAN revolutionary Leon Trotsky compared in his History of the Russian Revolution the diaries of the French king and the Russian tsar in the period leading up to their respective overthrows.

He commented that they "reveal the same depressing spiritual emptiness".

Their obsession with a tiny, inward-looking clique as the world around them falls apart looks strangely pathetic with hindsight.

But Lord Ashcroft's attack on

David Cameron has again revealed the narrow obsessions of the privileged and powerful. It showed how little they care about or understand ordinary people.

Some people have called David Cameron's apparent "youthful indiscretions" the Prosciutto Affair.

It's a play on an Italian type of ham and a reference to the Profumo Affair that shook the British establishment in the 1960s.

Then a complacent ruling class that thought their position and privilege would last forever was

once again exposed as out of touch and out of control.

The nasty habits of our rulers hardly matter. But the fact that people lose respect for them and are no longer prepared to be ruled by them does.

Hopefully they will continue to bicker among themselves while our side remembers the history.

Revolutions got rid of the parasitic monarchies. And they brought with them the potential for a new society that made the idle rich irrelevant.

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Refugees and activists called for Britain to open its border in Calais last week

PICTURE: JAK COCHRANE

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Start building solidarity and challenge anti-migrant racism—it's time to get organised



● Put on a local Stand Up to Racism public meeting or rally

● Download a collection sheet to take round your school, college, university, workplace or neighbourhood bit.ly/106pgHE

● Join the next solidarity convoy to Calais on 17 October

ANALYSIS

SIMON BASKETTER



Labour's new leader, the press and a pig

PRIME MINISTER David Cameron having sex with a dead pig strangely did not top the headlines on Radio 4's Today news programme on Monday of this week.

But for the five days after his election Jeremy Corbyn "in crisis" did—including "revelations" of his consensual relationships with other humans decades ago.

A bike-riding elderly man got promoted and unleashed a wave of panic and hatred usually saved by the media for asylum seekers.

The headlines have been surreal at times and often poisonous. The media attacked Corbyn for being a teetotal killjoy, and also for taking his supporters to a bar and singing The Red Flag.

After being blasted for not wearing a tie, Corbyn put one on for a Battle of Britain memorial service. He was blasted for having trousers they said clashed with his jacket.

They monstered him for supposedly taking sandwiches out of the mouths of war veterans.

They labelled him a grasping hypocrite for accepting his pay rise—without mentioning he claimed just £8.75 in expenses last year.

They lied about him abolishing the army and agreeing to kiss the queen's hand to receive party funding. And how dare he be a staunch republican, how dare he not ask God to save the queen.

"Jeremy Corbyn sex dwarf eaten by otters" was a real headline. It was actually about an English Defence League member drowning, but was perhaps a low.

But there is method as well as madness.

Threat

Cabinet ministers called Corbyn a threat to national, economic and family security, while voting through plans to steal billions of pounds from the poorest people with tax credit changes.

Labour figures joined in. John Mann, Simon Danczuk and David Blunkett delivered poisoned pieces to the Mail on Sunday.

Blunkett, who was so outraged at being hacked by News International that he took a job for them, wrote an apocalyptic piece titled, "Now wait for Labour's thugs to march again".

The media reflect the bias of normality under capitalism. So it is "good news" if profits are up. And it is only "official" politics in parliament that matters—not its effect on ordinary people.

Journalists are far more establishment figures than they like to admit.

Part of this is class and education. There as many Oxbridge chaps in the news rooms as the cabinet.

The contempt oozing out of the lobby correspondents stood out. They were outraged that the grubby world of off the record briefings and unnamed sources that passes for political journalism wasn't quite as relevant as it thinks.

The media also has a very narrow frame of debate.

Even the liberal papers are happy to pile in against Corbyn. But they balance that with the odd column saying he isn't the anti-Christ.

So the Observer ran Ed Vulliamy criticising the paper's Corbyn coverage. Which was nice but doesn't really make up for the actual coverage.

And it is worth recalling that Vulliamy previously had a world exclusive from on the record senior CIA agent Mel Goodman. Goodman said the CIA knew there were no WMD in Iraq. This was in 2002—before the war in Iraq.

The Observer spiked it seven times. But they did run his mild "don't pick on Corbyn" piece.

Left wingers are supposed to believe that the media are out to get them and an unelected cabal are plotting against us.

It's nonsense of course. The Sunday Times' prediction or promise that a Corbyn government "would face the very real prospect of an event which would effectively be a mutiny" proves it.

There is no coup likely. But the kneejerk panicked response to any thought of change in favour of ordinary people, and media's enthusiasm for encouraging it, is telling.

The best retort to their reaction to a threat to their control and power is to deepen and make real that threat to their control and power.



THERE WERE ten NUT teachers' union banners on the National Gallery picket line last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Take action to mark 100 days of National Gallery walkout

by NICK CLARK

THE TUC has called a national day of action for strikers at the National Gallery set for Thursday of this week.

The day of action will mark 100 days of a strike against privatisation and victimisation at the gallery.

National Gallery strikers got a huge boost on Tuesday of last week when Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn used his speech at TUC congress to call for support for the strike.

"Welcome to those strikers from PCS from the National Gallery for what they are going through at the present time," he said.

"They look after our national treasures in the National Gallery. They do it well. They love what they do and they love what we have got in our National Gallery. Please, let's not privatise our galleries and privatise our staff.

"Well done to you for your campaign."

Pleased

TUC delegates also gave strikers a standing ovation.

Speaking in a video appeal for support (see box), victimised PCS union rep Candy Udwin said, "We're really pleased that at the TUC congress we got a standing ovation.

"We now have support from the TUC for our strike to demand an end to privatisation and my reinstatement.

"We were also delighted

that Jeremy Corbyn in his speech at the congress called for support for our strike and talked about why it's important to oppose the gallery's privatisation plans.

"It's just great to have Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell leading the Labour Party—people who have supported our strike right from the beginning."

The members of the PCS union have been fighting against privatisation since January of this year—and have been on all out strike since the middle of August.

They are also fighting for the reinstatement of Candy, who was suspended by gallery bosses ahead of the first



The strike has closed rooms

Video solidarity appeal

CANDY released a video appeal for support on Thursday of last week.

She said, "We're hoping that the talks will get somewhere. But we really need your support to make sure that we win."

"So we're asking for your support on our day of action on 24 September. You could do a collection, you could organise a protest outside where you work or a show of support."

"People have surprised themselves

with how much they've raised. Whether its £25 or £250 it all adds up.

"Lastly, what we'd like to ask people to do is to do the same thing as us."

"We need more of a fightback."

"The message from the National Gallery is, we can do it—anyone can do it."

"If our strike wins it won't just be a victory for us. It'll be a victory for all of us."

Watch at
youtu.be/
ni5Kfb
Tmnu8

Candy Udwin

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

walkout in January then sacked in May.

A privatisation deal saw some 300 jobs outsourced to private company Securitas in August.

The strikers are fighting to secure their terms and conditions before Securitas take over in November.

Ongoing

Talks between gallery management and PCS officials are ongoing.

But gallery workers have already received letters inviting them to attend training for SIA security licenses ahead of the takeover.

The PCS is calling on workers not to sign anything or attend the training until the dispute is resolved.

The all-out strike has had a big effect since it began, with bosses having to keep at least half of the rooms in the gallery closed.

And the widespread support it has received can help to tip the balance.

That support was on show on Friday of last week. Strikers were joined by members of the NUT teachers' union with ten banners and NUT president Max Hyde.

But the strikers will need as much support as they can get to help them win.

Donate to the strike fund—Sort Code 08-60-01, Account No. 20169002 or send cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG

Join day of action Thursday 24 September, 1pm, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square

Labour MPs plot to push Corbyn into compromise

by JUDITH ORR

JEREMY CORBYN faced mutiny from the right in the Labour Party, including shadow cabinet members, in his first week as leader.

His election even led to the threat of mutiny from a serving army general.

He warned of Corbyn making “plans to emasculate the armed forces”. He said this could lead to “mass resignations at all levels” and “the very real prospect of an event which would effectively be a mutiny”.

But some of Corbyn’s most vocal critics have come from the Labour establishment, which is going all out to wreck his leadership.

Up to half of Labour’s shadow cabinet members are threatening to vote to bomb Syria in defiance of Corbyn’s commitment to oppose intervention.

Shadow foreign secretary Hilary Benn joined in the attacks. He boasted that Labour would not advocate leaving Nato claiming, “It has been a cornerstone of our security.”

He also snubbed Corbyn’s policy on getting rid of Trident saying, “My view is that we need to maintain an independent nuclear deterrent.”

Labour candidate for London mayor Sadiq Khan used the Daily Mail newspaper to attack Corbyn.

Khan accused him of giving Labour an “anti-Jewish” image because of his support for Arab struggles in the Middle East.

He also “wouldn’t dismiss” the possibility of Corbyn’s leadership leading to “violent unrest” because it would keep Labour out of office.

Corbyn and his chancellor John McDonnell are caught by their desire to maintain unity at the top of the Labour Party.

Hostile

The MPs they are trying to placate are publicly hostile and want to scupper the left.

And within days of his victory Corbyn signalled retreat over his position on membership of the European Union (EU) to hold the shadow cabinet together.

He wrote in the Financial Times newspaper, “Labour is clear that we should remain in the EU. But we would want to see reform.”

McDonnell apologised for supporting the IRA and for joking that he would kill Margaret Thatcher.

He also indicated that Corbyn might sing the national anthem in the future.

Although John Prescott has pointed out that as deputy prime minister to Tony Blair he never sang the national anthem.

Compromises, whether symbolic

JEREMY CORBYN in the House of Commons—his enemies aren’t only on the other side of the house

or significant, will not satisfy Corbyn’s enemies. They will just want more.

Corbyn won a thumping victory and claims that he is unelectable don’t stand up. Some 52 percent say they are “more interested in politics” since he was elected.

But the establishment wants to make him unelectable, so the smears will continue (see page 6).

Thousands of people attended Corbyn’s rallies and joined Labour to see a different sort of politics.

They will be horrified by the scale of the attacks on him.

But the right won’t be pushed back unless all those who want an alternative to austerity and war are mobilised where they are strong.

That means in every workplace and on the streets.



On other pages...

Syriza’s election victory in Greece hides a deepening crisis >>Page 20

Sign statement in solidarity

TRADE UNION leaders have backed a statement to defend Jeremy Corbyn’s anti-austerity policies and his mandate to lead the Labour Party.

The statement was launched by campaign group Unite the Resistance and had been signed by 2,000 people as Socialist Worker went to press.

Trade union leaders who have signed the statement include Mark Serwotka of the PCS, Unite general secretary Len McCluskey and Unison general secretary Dave Prentis.

NUT general secretary Christine Blower has also signed the statement along with Matt Wrack of the FBU and Dave Ward of the CWU.

The statement says, “The overwhelming election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party is a hugely welcome development for everyone who opposes austerity, racism and war.

“We call on all those both inside and outside the Labour Party who support the pro-union, anti-austerity, anti-racist and anti-war policies that Jeremy Corbyn has put forward to stand up to any attempts to undermine his democratic right to lead the Labour Party and the programme he has supported.”

Add your name to the statement at bit.ly/1MED3g9 and go to uniteresist.org for more information

CONFERENCE

New plan for a ‘People’s Railway’

by NICK CLARK

JEREMY CORBYN has promised to renationalise the railways if Labour wins the next general election.

Corbyn was set to outline his plans for a “People’s Railway” at this year’s Labour Party conference in Brighton, which begins this Sunday.

The announcement came as rail boss Nicola Shaw said she could recommend privatising Network Rail, which owns and runs Britain’s rail infrastructure.

The privatisation of British railways began in 1993.

A 2013 survey by pollster YouGov showed that 66 percent of people wanted renationalisation.

The Tories hate the idea. International development minister Justine Greening said Corbyn’s plan was an “ideological joyride”.

That’s because nationalisation would mean an attack on the idea that public services should be run for profit.

Money

Train companies such as Virgin have made money by selling expensive tickets while receiving millions of pounds in subsidies from the government.

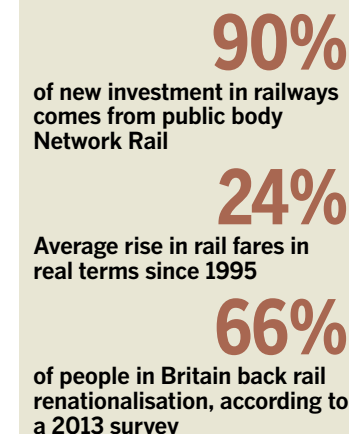
Corbyn has previously said that he wants to renationalise energy companies and Royal Mail.

Meanwhile Labour shadow chancellor John McDonnell has called for ordinary people’s input into budget proposals and for a meeting of the European left.

Speaking at a TUC congress fringe meeting last week he said, “We’re going to ask local communities to draw up budgets telling us where the priorities should be.

“We’re also going to call a European-wide conference in London of all those forces that are opposed to austerity.”

FIGURE IT OUT



Rationing NHS hearing aids will punish people for being deaf

At least 500 people could lose their right to free hearing aids in a sign of what the Tories' future holds for the NHS, reports **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

HEARING AIDS are to be rationed for people in Staffordshire as a result of Tory attacks on the NHS.

North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) will become the first in history to restrict access to hearing aids from 1 October.

Staffordshire's other four CCGs could soon follow with consultations set to end in December.

North Essex CCG also plans to deny NHS hearing aids to people with "mild" hearing loss.

Disabled People Against Cuts campaigner Roddy Slorach told Socialist Worker, "This is punishing people for not being able to hear."

Nearly one in three CCGs is considering or already practicing rationing of at least some services.

But the North Staffordshire decision means at least 500 people will miss out on hearing aids.

Breaking

This marks a significant step towards breaking up universal health care and replacing it with means testing.

Patients with "mild" hearing loss will no longer get publicly funded hearing aids. Those with "moderate" hearing loss will be forced to undergo a "functional impact" assessment to measure the impact on their everyday life.

If they fail to get a high enough score, they too will not be eligible. Only under 18s and people with dementia and learning difficulties will continue to receive them automatically.

Roddy said, "It will mean fewer people being able to study and

BACK STORY

The 2012 Health and Social Care Act took commissioning NHS services out of the public sector

● The new commissioning bodies, called CCGs, are supposedly run by GPs.

● In practice they are often run by privatisers

● CCGs operate by the rules of the market. A third of CCGs now either ration some services or are considering doing so

● North Staffordshire CCG's decision to ration hearing aids takes this to a new level

work—and it will hit elderly people particularly hard.

"The better off get them privately anyway, but where does that leave working class people?"

Specsavers' prices range from £495 for a hearing aid rated as "good" to £2,795 for the "best".

The move from analogue to digital hearing aids has also given private companies an opportunity to muscle in on providing them.

Their profits mean the cost is much higher than when provided by the NHS.

The Tories' Health and Social Care Act 2012 brought in CCGs to "commission" care for GP patients. Roddy said, "It's the most absurd example of the market running health services."

On other pages...

Tories attack families with cuts to tax credits >>Page 3

Junior doctors could strike

THE TORIES are also attacking NHS workers—and could face a revolt from junior doctors.

Their bogus plans to impose "seven day working" in an NHS where most services already run seven days a week is about making staff work longer for less.

By suppressing wages and tearing up terms and conditions, they aim to soften the NHS up for privatisation.

As part of this they are imposing new contracts on junior doctors, slashing the supplements they rely on to

boost their salaries, which start at £22,636.

The doctors' British Medical Association (BMA) withdrew from talks in the face of intransigence and have threatened the possibility of strikes. A petition calling on the BMA to back strikes got more than 33,000 signatures by Friday of last week.

Other unions have pledged to oppose the seven day working plans, but have yet to call action.

Patients and workers need to fight to defend the NHS from Tory attacks.

TACKLING ISLAMOPHOBIA



GOVERNMENT PLANS criminalise Muslims who speak out against injustice

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

We can beat this racist clampdown

by **ROB FERGUSON**

MORE THAN 200 people, many of them Muslims, came together in Ilford, east London, on Thursday of last week to challenge the government's Prevent strategy.

The Five Pillars of Islamophobia meeting was part of a nationwide tour organised by Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend) and Spinwatch.

The Tories are ramping up Islamophobia. The latest legislation effectively criminalises people for being Muslims.

Mend's founding director Sufyan Ismail described the witchhunts against groups such as the Muslim Council of Britain and the Federation of Islamic Student Societies.

Home Office documents leaked last week revealed plans to give the Charity Commission watchdog

new powers to sack "extremist" trustees.

Management at a number of schools in Newham, east London, have also launched a series of attacks on Muslim students. But people are starting to fight back.

Parents and students' courageous stand forced Sarah Bonnell school bosses to back down last week from banning the Jilbab dress.

Alex Kenny, NUT teachers' union national executive member, told the meeting how Prevent was suppressing free expression in the classroom.

Teachers and health workers are now obliged to spy on their students and patients.

Schools watchdog Ofsted reported Oldham NUT branch to its local authority for sending a tweet condemning Prevent during last week's TUC conference.

Alex Kenny told Socialist Worker in a personal capacity,

"Why is Ofsted going through NUT Twitter accounts and what does Ofsted expect the local authority to do with the NUT?"

"That's not Ofsted's role—it is silencing freedom of expression." Spinwatch's professor David Miller slammed measures against "non-violent extremism" as an attack on everyone.

Police training documents for Prevent's "deradicalisation" programme Channel plays into Islamophobic stereotypes of Muslims as terrorists.

But it also features one case study of "Callum", a recently discharged soldier who has been denied disability benefits.

"He blames the British government and the greed of the bankers for their part in his financial downfall," and must be reported to the police.

After the meeting people met to discuss joint activities by Newham Stand Up to Racism and Mend.

Why I back Burgess

THE IDEA of choosing a female general secretary for the Unison union, whose membership is made up mostly of women, is a powerful one.

Under the current male incumbent, Dave Prentis, we have seen services butchered, a pay freeze, privatisation and attacks on pensions.

The response has been inadequate.

Voting for Dave Prentis is voting for more of the same. Unfortunately voting for Heather Wakefield is also a vote for more of the same.

She was the lead negotiator in the local government pay dispute and in the pensions dispute.

The general secretary fight is less about gender and more about rank and file versus bureaucrats.

John Burgess has shown time and again he puts the members' interests ahead of everything else.

I need a leader who gives us confidence to fight against austerity—not to pull the rug from under my feet when we get going!

Helen Davies
East London

Blame the British state

DAVID CAMERON has again showed his incompetence with the falling apart of the devolved government in Stormont, Northern Ireland.

Westminster's long policy of divide and rule does nothing for the working class in both communities.

Robert Gillan
Glasgow

A no-fly zone will lead to more chaos in Syria

SEEING THE desperation of Syrians fleeing repression or terror, people cry out, "Something must be done".

Some believe that a no-fly zone would bring peace and security.

But a no-fly zone has to be enforced. Planes flouting it would be shot down by the forces of countries whose interventions have destabilised the Middle East. Ground installations would be bombed.

Western intervention is



Let's all rise to the challenge posed by Corbyn's victory

JEREMY CORBYN'S stunning Labour leadership victory is not "a threat to state security". But it is potentially a major threat to Tory security.

His anti-austerity agenda has galvanised hundreds of thousands and could lead to significant anti-Tory confrontations.

The challenge is that, despite massive support outside parliament, Corbyn has little support within the right wing majority of Labour MPs.

They will try to trap him in compromise and parliamentary electoralism.

This new political energy could quickly be squandered. It must be channelled as a matter of urgency, built through the union movement

and community campaigns.

It is a challenge for local Labour Party groups. They will need to be persuaded to move beyond electoralism into productive united front activity with those beyond their ranks.

It is also a challenge for the wider left to draw the new enthusiasts by their thousands into political action.

John Clossick
South London

● I AM over the moon at news that Jeremy Corbyn is the new leader of the Labour Party.

Real change at last—and not before time. I want to see LGB and T at the top of the agenda. I am heartbroken every time I

hear of another transgender person having taken their life or being haunted, hunted and bullied. I'm joining the Labour Party!

Alex Warner
Cheshire

● JEREMY CORBYN has always been a self-confessed anti-monarchist. So why should he sing the national anthem?

The row highlights how desperate the Tories get when an opposition leader stands up for their principles.

Moreover it exposes how many of Corbyn's opponents, Labour or Tory, use the idea of "respect" for the monarch as ammunition.

Nick Vinehill
Norfolk

A big boost for Gallery strikers

IT WAS a great week for National Gallery strikers last week.

Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour leader.

And John McDonnell was appointed shadow chancellor—both have always backed our strike.

Then on Monday Yanis Varoufakis, the former Greek finance minister, came to our strike



meeting. But one of the best bits was when we got a shout out from Corbyn at the TUC conference in Brighton.

Some people who don't often come to the picket

line came down and were really boosted by it.

It made us think, we're doing all right. It's given us all a massive boost.

National Gallery striker
London

Just a thought...

York says yes to refugees

SOME 1,500 people marched through York on 12 September to say, "Refugees Welcome Here!"

It was the biggest demonstration in the city since those against the Iraq war in 2003.

Kevin McCaighy
York

Football fans show support

FC UNITED football fans displayed a giant banner saying, "Refugees Welcome Here" during a match against Corby Town in Manchester on 12 September.

Many supporters also donated food to support refugees and migrants.

Chris
Manchester

Is the 'family' a real thing?

I'M LOOKING forward to reading Judith Orr's new book. But I can't get my mind around her use of the word "family" as I think it doesn't exist.

People get together, possibly have children or adopt. This humaneness seems much more real than the "family".

David Paenson
Frankfurt, Germany

How to say no to the Metro?

IS THERE any possibility of getting a left wing challenge to the Metro's monopoly of the free newspaper market?

It is going completely unchallenged and effectively saturating the morning commute with right wing propaganda.

Leon Reed
By email

It's one rule for the rich...

ONE MINUTE Britain is a poor island that can't afford to fund services or help refugees.

The next we're an enormous superpower out to bomb the world.

Getting organised makes things clearer.

There are two classes—the ruling class and the rest—and we bear the brunt of the system while they get the comforts.

And our rulers fear our potential to take their privilege away.

Julie Richardson
Swansea

EASTERN BLOCKED



Deadly border fences are going up across eastern Europe as its governments whip up Islamophobia. **Dave Sewell** spoke to activists there about how the refugee crisis is spreading in the east—and what people are doing to resist

TWENTY FIVE years after the Iron Curtain fell, eastern European states are once again building walls to stop people fleeing westward.

But this time they are blocking African and Middle Eastern refugees fleeing wars and dictatorships. And the European Union (EU) is using regional governments as its frontline border cops.

But refugees have been forcing their way through. Thousands travelled through Croatia last week, after Hungary locked down its border with Serbia.

A new wall the border. It was constructed just in time for new anti-migrant laws coming into force on Monday of last week.

Migrant Solidarity (Migszol)

activist Karmen Kollar went to the newly-blocked border at Roszke, southern Hungary on the Tuesday morning.

She told Socialist Worker, “Hundreds of people were stuck on the border—within hours it became thousands. People started desperately camping on the empty motorway.”

Refugees chanted, “We want the gate open.” The state responded with terror. Karmen said, “By Wednesday afternoon, people were gathering at one of the old border crossings. Then the anti-terror police turned up.

“Somehow the people had got hold of a loudspeaker and tried to negotiate with the police.

“In the end they started throwing empty bottles, and then two or three stones. I heard one of the cops say “finally”—and without warning they

started pepper-spraying everyone.

“People tried to run, but the crowd was too dense. I saw people crying, throwing up. Some migrants pushed back, setting fire to T-shirts and throwing them at the police. The police answered with tear gas and water cannon.”

Serbian ambulance workers ended up hospitalised themselves after a tear gas grenade hit their ambulance.

THE LOCKDOWN follows six months of racist scaremongering across the region. Jan Majicek, a revolutionary socialist in the Czech capital Prague, told Socialist Worker, “A refugee boat sinking in 2013 was reported as a tragedy. Now the media talk about a ‘migration crisis’.

“They talk of an ‘uncontrollable wave’ or a ‘threat to our security’. Along with Islamophobia, this created a toxic cocktail that’s helped the far right.

“The Czech, Slovak, Polish and Hungarian governments are all repressing refugees—and using this to raise military and police budgets. The most serious situation is in Hungary.”

Karmen said, “The new law is the culmination of a xenophobic campaign. The government put up billboards in spring telling migrants, ‘If you come to Hungary, don’t steal Hungarian jobs’. But they were written in Hungarian, so the aim was obviously to create hatred.

“There’s opposition, but in this political atmosphere it can be hard to get a hearing.

“And the far right party Jobbik organises dangerous anti-migrant

rallies—one of them forced refugees to be evacuated from Budapest’s Keleti train station.”

Hungary’s government in particular is also virulently Eurosceptic.

Both Jan and Karmen say the politicians are using the EU as an “alibi”. But Karmen added, “The problem is that there is some truth to it too.”

The EU’s Dublin Regulation say refugees have to apply for asylum in

the first country they reach—and can be turned away elsewhere.

Karmen said, “These rules should be completely replaced. They are one reason the situation is so extreme.”

Both Germany and Denmark closed their borders before Croatia did. The authorities in France and Austria have tried to criminalise helping migrants—though resistance has stood its ground.

Meanwhile, Britain’s border at Calais is increasingly fortified. Cops pepper spray refugees there too.

EU politicians have criticised Hungary’s fence, but it was a condition of EU membership.

This follows a pattern already seen in Greece. The EU demanded a wall along the river Evros at its Turkey border. Hundreds of Syrian refugees held a sit-in protest there last week.

They rightly argued that this land blockade forces people onto the dangerous sea crossing. It has also given an alibi to any Greek politician who tries to use racism to shore up support.

Now EU border policies are poisoning the politics of newer eastern Europe members states in the same way. But here they are harder to resist.

FOR THOSE building a genuine left, the legacy of Stalinist dictatorships remains an obstacle. And social crisis followed the fall of those regimes—with only glimpses of the kind of working class resistance that has shaped Greece.

Jan said, “We should demand our governments open the borders and stop their war games. But that’s only one part of our task. The other is to fight for better jobs, wages and welfare—to undercut the Nazis and racists’ claims that refugees are the problem.”

Much of the debate

THOUSANDS OF refugee children are trapped on the borders of Western Europe (below)



about how to stop the violence at the EU’s border has revolved around the need to “share the burden”.

But this reinforces the idea that refugees are a problem—and the repressive system that tries to control them.

It’s a contradiction Karmen struggles with. “It’s a big question and I don’t know what to do about borders,” she said.

“There needs to be some control. But the more I hear from the migrants, the more I think the EU shouldn’t get to decide where they stay.

“People might enter in one country, but have family in another.

“Why should we tell someone they have to stay in Hungary if they want to go to Sweden, for example? I believe they should have this freedom of movement.”

HUNGARY’S NEW law states that Serbia is a “safe country”. That allows the government to deport anyone coming through there—or jail them for several years if they enter Hungary.

Just a few dozen metres from Roszke’s closed motorway checkpoint is one the two remaining legal crossings. Karmen described a small, unmarked prefab building where a small group of people are allowed inside every 15 minutes.

“A Syrian man told me they’d let him in, kept him in a room for 30 minutes, then handed him some forms he couldn’t read.

“A translator told him to sign them. The forms said he had been returned to Serbia and wouldn’t be coming to Hungary.”

But Serbia is not a place where many refugees expect to find a future. British campaigner Tom Ullman went to the camp in its capital Belgrade.

Many stay at the camp because Serbia’s new laws mean refugees are kicked out of hotels after three nights. Tom said, “Over the past

week refugees have had to face abrupt downpours.

“Heavy rains are followed by a flurry of activity as those without storm-worthy tents head for what shelter they can find.”

Muthanna told Tom he fled Syria after dictator Bashar al Assad’s secret police tortured him. But after a year in Turkey he pushed on to Greece in an overloaded boat.

Suffered

Tom said, “Sombre stories are told, and affect the mood of the camp. A ship sank the previous week, its passengers only rescued because one of them happened to have a flare.

“But for all the suffering there’s a peculiar festival spirit where strangers become friends.

“The most joyous moment came when a local organisation brought supplies to make tea and music. Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans danced to familiar songs.

“We should be thankful to welcome such people into our countries.”

Racism helps our rulers

OUR RULERS’ biggest lie about border controls is that they protect the working class.

Even a piece in the supposedly liberal Guardian newspaper argued that letting in refugees would “hit the UK’s working class areas hardest”.

And some trade unionists argue that immigration harms workers’ wages and conditions.

But pressure on services comes from politicians slashing funding. Bosses push down wages and conditions.

There is plenty of wealth in our society.

Workers produce it—and when

we stand together we have the power to reclaim it.

The racism and repression we are seeing at borders from Roszke to Calais only helps our rulers divide us.

Extend

The Communist Manifesto famously ends with a call for international solidarity. “Workers of all countries unite—you have a world to win, and nothing to lose but your chains.”

David Cameron understands this. That’s why he wants to extend the border controls we are seeing in Hungary throughout the EU.

Our side must understand that we can only win if we smash them.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

CHESTERFIELD

Book Launch—Marxism and Women's Liberation

With the author and editor of Socialist Worker Judith Orr.
Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library (enter via Cafe Browser),
New Beetwell St, S40 1QL
ESSEX

The housing crisis—why the system can't provide decent homes for all

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

POOLE

Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party and the fight against austerity

Mon 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Blue Boar pub (near multi storey car park),
29 Market Close, BH15 1NE

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNLEY

After Corbyn, will the union leaders fight austerity?

Thu 1 Oct, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Economics of the madhouse—capitalism and the market today

Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BRADFORD

The refugee crisis in Europe—why we say open the border

Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Equity Centre,
Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd,
BD1 2LU

BRISTOL: NORTH

The rise of fascism in Hungary

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Canteen, 5th Floor,
Hamilton House,
80 Stokes Croft,
BS1 3QY

BRISTOL: SOUTH

Austerity, racism and war—resistance and the case for revolution

Wed 30 Sep, 5.30pm,
Robin Hood pub,
56 St Michael's Hill,
BS2 8DX

CARDIFF

Marxism and culture

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

How left wing is anarchism?

Thu 15 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

COLCHESTER

Does the working class still have the power to change the world?

Tue 29 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd,
CO2 7ET

DUDLEY

The crisis of Syriza and the Greek elections

Wed 30 Sep, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge (town centre),
DY8 1EP

DUNDEE

After the elections: Where is Greece going?

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

How we beat the anti-union laws in the past—and how we can do it today

Trade unionists march against the Tories' Industrial Relations Bill in 1971

BOLTON

Wed 30 Sep, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St
(off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

CAMBRIDGE

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Shanghai Family Restaurant,
39 Burleigh St,
CB1 1DG

GLASGOW: NORTH

Stonewall—when LGBT people fought back against oppression

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe,
86 Maryhill Rd
(near St George's Cross Underground),
G20 7QB

GLASGOW: SOUTH

How do we get organised? Marxists and the trade unions

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Govanhill Baths,
99 Calder St,
G42 7RA

HUDDERSFIELD

Why Jeremy Corbyn is right about Nato and Trident nuclear weapons

Wed 30 Sep, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church,
Meeting Room,
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MEDWAY

Thu 8 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Nucleus Arts Centre,
Conference Room,
272 High St, Chatham,
ME4 4BP

KIRKCALDY

The 1945 government—Labour's golden age?

Mon 5 Oct, 7.30pm,
Betty Nicol's pub,
297 High St, KY1 1JL

LIVERPOOL

Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour party and the fight against austerity

Wed 8 Oct, 7pm,
The Brink, 21 Parr St, L1 4JN

LONDON: BRENT & HARROW

The refugee crisis in Europe—why we say open the border

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (close to the station), W10 5XL

LONDON: CAMDEN

What would a socialist society look like?

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm,
Theatro Technis,
26 Crowndale Rd, NW1 1TT

NEWCASTLE

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NOTTINGHAM

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
International Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

LONDON: EALING

Why do the Tories hate working class people so much?

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 High St,
Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Rosa Luxemburg—reform or revolution

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd
(corner Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN

The crisis of left party Syriza and the outcome of the Greek elections

Wed 30 Sep, 7.15pm,
West Indian Cultural Centre,
9 Clarendon Rd,
Haringey,
N8 0DJ

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Do all revolutions end in tyranny?

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure Centre (Room 2),
Artichoke Place (off Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8TS

LONDON: TOTTENHAM

China's economy in trouble—a Marxist analysis

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Kitabevi Cafe,
410 Tottenham High Rd, N17 9JB

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St (opposite Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Could there be a revolution in Britain?

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE

TTIP—a corporate power grab

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

Are the ideas of Leon Trotsky relevant for today?

Wed 7 Oct, 7.30pm,
Food Factory,
884 Stockport Rd,
Levenshulme,
M19 3BN

NORWICH

Cuts that kill—how can we fight the Tory assault on disability benefits

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

PLYMOUTH

What would a socialist society look like?

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

PORTSMOUTH

Where now for Greek left party Syriza?

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St,
PO5 4EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

The 1945 government—Labour's golden age?

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Central United Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St
(near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SWANSEA

The refugee crisis in Europe—why we say open the border

Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

WIGAN

Alienation—tell me why I don't like Mondays

Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

China and the world economic crisis

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Grain Store,
King St, WV1 1ST

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

COVENTRY

Refugees Welcome Here—Migrant Lives Matter

Wed 30 Sep, 7.30pm,
Urban Coffee Company,
Unit 7, Fargo Village,
Far Gosford St,
CV1 5ED.
See @CovSUTR on Twitter for details.

Organised by Stand Up To Racism

DORCHESTER

Cameron, Calais and austerity

Sat 3 Oct, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club (opposite County Hall), Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.
Organised by Dorset Socialists

GLASGOW

Refugees Are Welcome Here

With eyewitness reports from Athens and Lesbos plus other speakers.
Tue 29 Sep, 7pm,
Sir Charles Wilson Building,
Glasgow University,
G12 8QQ.

Called by Afghan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees, Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet), Justice and Peace, Positive Action in Housing, Scottish Refugee Council and STUC

LONDON: BRIXTON

Refugees Welcome—Solidarity Meeting

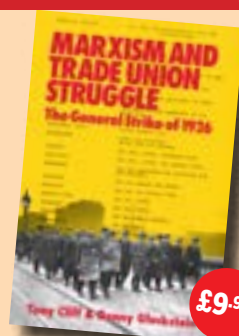
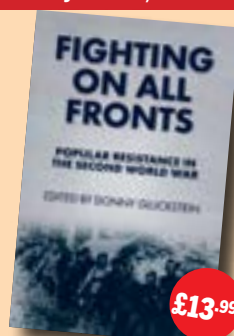
With Matt Wrack (FBU general secretary), Finn Brennan (Aslef London organiser), Weyman Bennett (Stand Up to Racism), Peter Pinkney (RMT president), Harmit Athwal and Reem Abu-Hayyeh (Institute of Race Relations).
Wed 30 Sep, 7pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd, SW9 7PH

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A bold revival of a socialist classic on Scotland's stage

A new staging of 7:84 theatre company's socialist play *The Cheviot* is a lively crowd pleaser. It's just a pity it isn't more topical, writes **Jimmy Murray**

SOCIALIST THEATRE company 7:84 toured Scotland in 1973 with a popular, political play that would take on an iconic status.

Written by the company's founder and artistic director John McGrath, *The Cheviot*, *The Stag* and *The Black, Black Oil* swept through Scottish history.

It begins with the Highland Clearances, when the landowners brutally "cleared" the land of poor crofters to make way for sheep, to the discovery of North Sea Oil.

The show combined narrated history, drama, biting satire, music hall comedy and political polemic with the Scottish ceilidh tradition—social gatherings with live music and dancing.

Its success was legendary. McGrath wrote of his play, "People love the comedy, the music, the variety."

"But particularly they love the fact that it is saying something about Scotland today, something direct and passionate."

There's no lack of passion in this new staging by the Dundee Rep theatre. Directed by Joe Douglas, the piece is brought vividly to life by a fine Rep ensemble which includes the superb actor-musician Alasdair Macrae and a live band.

Unashamed

The production is lively, humorous and unashamed in its class politics.

A highlight of the show is the scene with the hated Duke of Sutherland, who has made a fortune from the Clearances.

He tries to recruit Highlanders for the British war effort in Crimea. One brave soul steps forward and says, "Since you have preferred sheep to men, let sheep now defend you."

Given the political ferment in Scotland the play seemed ripe for updating.

But disappointingly there is little new material brought to McGrath's 42 year old script.

A very brief joke about last year's independence referendum and a comedy skit depicting David Cameron on holiday hardly amount to a contemporary cutting edge.

A standing ovation on the opening night proves that *The Cheviot* has lost none of its popular appeal.

But you can't help but feel that, with a more topical script, this excellent production would pack a bigger political punch.

The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Oil

Directed by Joe Douglas
£19.00

Dundee Rep, Dundee DD1 1PB.
Until 26 September



JOHN McGRATH takes us on a journey through Scottish history from the Highland Clearances to the discovery of North Sea Oil

PICTURES: TOMMY GA KEN WAN



The World Goes Pop



Ushio Shinohara, *Doll Festival* (1966)

POP ART was never just about "consumerism" in the West, but always had a radical political undercurrent. This exhibition looks at the global impact of the Pop Art movement—from Latin America to Asia—during a time of protest and social change in the 1960s and 1970s

The EY Exhibition: The World Goes Pop, Tate Modern, London SE1 9TG, Until 24 January 2016

MUSIC

ANTHEMS FOR DOOMED YOUTH

The Libertines
Produced by Jake Gosling
Virgin EMI
£7.99

INDIE BAND The Libertines are back with a new album—*Anthems for Doomed Youth*.

Tracks partly deal with the



band's 2004 meltdown.

But it's not a rehash of their original work. Its fresh sound dips into rock, reggae and ska.

EXHIBITION

STEEL CITY, CITY ON THE MOVE

Millenium Gallery, Sheffield
Open 10AM–5PM Monday to Friday and 11AM–4PM Sunday, until 11 October

THE DECLINING steel industry dominated Sheffield and its US twin Pittsburgh.

Here artist Jo Peel explores the parallels through film, murals, paintings, prints and drawings. The name is an ironic nod to Sheffield, *City on the Move*, an arrogant 1970s PR film.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- Marxism and Women's Liberation**
Judith Orr
- Immigration: the myths used to divide us**
Charlie Kimber
- Them and Us: Fighting the class war, 1910-1939**
John Newsinger
- Who is Charlie? Xenophobia and the New Middle Class**
Emmanuel Todd
- We Cannot Escape History: Nations, States and Revolutions**
Neil Davidson

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ONE OF the biggest criticisms thrown at Jeremy Corbyn is that his left wing politics will make the Labour Party unelectable.

Voters will never accept left wing ideas, the argument runs.

People don't trust Labour to cut enough public services, keep enough migrants out, or slash enough benefits.

So Labour must pitch to the right if it wants to win elections.

It's no surprise that the loudest voices in this argument come from the right—particularly the right of the Labour Party. But some people on Corbyn's side think it too.

Guardian columnist Owen Jones—a high-profile Corbyn supporter—argues that he needs a “broad-based message” to appeal to people with right wing ideas.

The problem with this is that it sees ordinary people as a homogeneous mass that will always accept racism, the need for austerity, and capitalism.

They have to be either accommodated to or patronised—“love-bombed” as Jones puts it.

But people's ideas are always changing and can change very rapidly, as recent events in solidarity with refugees show.

Of course lots of people do have right wing ideas.

And many will have voted for the Tories or even the racist Ukip party in May's general election.

But many people also support left wing ideas, such as nationalisation of the railways.

People often hold a mixture of different—often contradictory ideas—at the same time.

So someone can demand more refugees be let into Britain but still accept the need for some of the immigration controls that keep them out.

Or someone may believe that we need anti-union laws to protect the public from disruptive strikes.

But they can fully support a friend or a family member if they strike.

These contradictory ideas don't come from nowhere. They have their basis in the way that society is organised and how we experience the world.

Under capitalism, the vast majority of us make a living by agreeing to work for a small number of enormously wealthy people—the ruling class.

For the individual worker, with no alternative experience of how society can be organised, this set-up can seem natural.

And it can also leave us feeling isolated or atomised, in competition with other workers.

This lays the basis for right wing ideas, which the ruling class encourages through



WOMEN PROTESTING in Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Egyptian revolution in November 2011. The revolt sparked huge debates about how to run society

HOW DO OUR IDEAS CHANGE?

It's a common argument that socialists must accept some right wing ideas to get elected and make a difference. But Nick Clark argues that ideas can change through struggle



Jeremy Corbyn

institutions such as the media, schools and political parties.

Pay cuts for workers and tax cuts for the rich can be justified if our jobs depend on how much profit our bosses can make.

So can anti-migrant racism if it seems as if migrants threaten our jobs or services.

And it can strike a chord when right wingers ask why should people on benefits receive money for doing nothing while others have to work?

Obviously, people don't all



People often hold a mix of contradictory ideas at the same time

think the same way. And most don't accept all right wing ideas in their entirety.

That's because our ideas aren't just shaped by how society is organised, but also by our positions within it.

McDonald's boss millionaire Steve Easterbrook will have a vastly different experience of the world than one of his employees on less than the Living Wage.

So their ideas are also likely to be worlds apart. The same

is true on a smaller level. A worker could be a trade unionist who would never cross a picket line.

But if she becomes a manager, whose job involves sacking and disciplining workers on behalf of her company, her attitude to strikes will probably change.

Often our experiences run directly against the ideas that the ruling class wants us to accept.

Politicians and the media have relentlessly blamed migrants for low wages, lack of jobs or strained public services for years.

This led to a rise in support for the racist Ukip party, which grew off the back of its anti-migrant politics.

Despite this, most people never accepted all of Ukip's racism.

And something changed with recent images of refugees drowning in the Mediterranean or living in shanty towns in places like Calais.

TENS OF thousands of people marched to say refugees are welcome here. Many people organised to send aid to migrants living in Calais.

Some people even offered to put migrants up in their homes.

The reality of the refugees' suffering didn't sit well with the anti-migrant rhetoric.

But although ideas can change, reformism—the idea that the system can be changed to work in a way that better meets our needs—remains strong.

So almost everyone wants to see some kind of change in society.

But most people don't think that it should—or even could—be fundamentally overhauled.

The revolutionary Karl Marx said capitalism leaves people feeling alienated.

People create societies. But they are organised in such a way that society can feel like an alien force with a life of its own.

Capitalism can leave us feeling powerless. We have no real control over the way society is run.

Most of the important decisions are made by the ruling class.

So it seems natural that if we want to see changes in society, we have to elect people to change things on our behalf.

Many workers look to organisations such as the Labour Party to bring change because they lack confidence to take action themselves.

This can be the case even as people's ideas begin to change very rapidly and they start to look for more radical solutions.

Corbyn's election as leader of the Labour Party is a perfect example.

Tens of thousands of people backed him because they are

fed up with the way that society is run.

And that mood goes far wider. Corbyn speaks to people's anger and represents a sense of hope that things can be changed.

That's why his election is a huge victory for anyone who's serious about fighting for a better world—including revolutionaries.

But revolutionaries also have a very different approach to changing society.

If workers confront the ruling class head on we can take control of society and run things for ourselves.

Most of the time revolutionaries are in a minority. But people's ideas can change around this too.

There are times when workers are brought into direct confrontation with the system.

When people go on strike, for example, they find themselves in a collective battle against the bosses.

When this happens, ruling class ideas can begin to break down.

Racist and sexist ideas make less sense when black and white people, men and women, stand together against a common enemy.

When this happens, the conflict between workers on one hand and bosses on the other is laid bare.

At the same time, people can begin to realise their strength and ability to organise and change things themselves.

This is particularly true during times of mass struggle or revolutionary upheaval.

During the Egyptian revolution in 2011, people occupying Cairo's Tahrir Square had to organise to defend themselves from attacks from Mubarak's regime.

There were discussions about the best way to do this.

But people who were there also remember huge debates about the kind of society they could build together once the regime fell.

So when people start to change the world, their ideas start to change with it.

One of the problems with simply looking to parliament to change things is that it can lead us away from this process.

It relies on the idea that if we want to change things, we need to elect people to do it for us.

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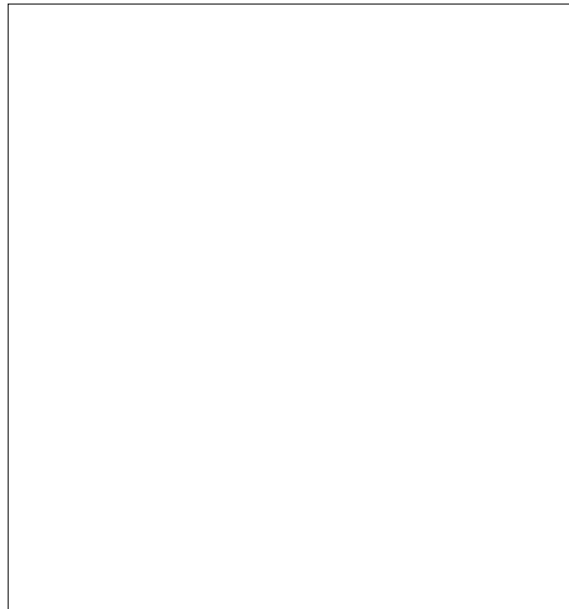
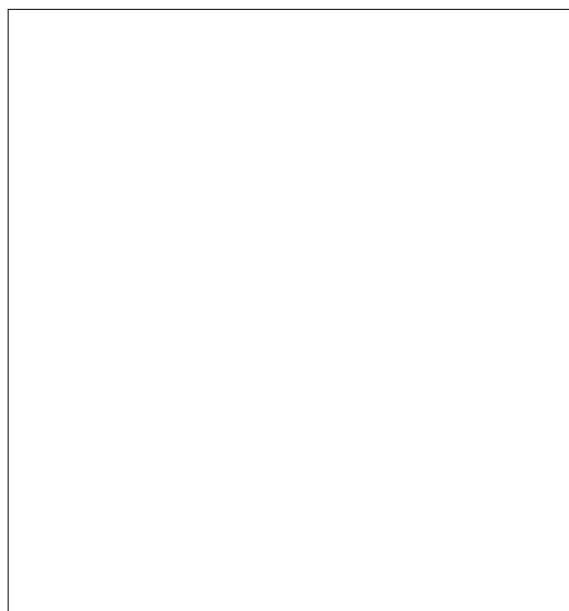
● **The Point Is To Change It** by John Molyneux £7.00

● **The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx** by Alex Callinicos £9.99

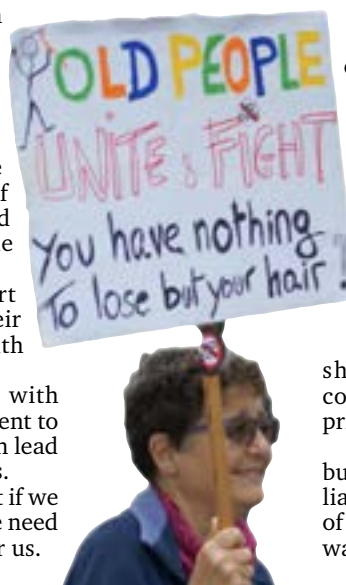
● **Arguments for Revolution** by Joseph Choonara and Charlie Kimber £3.00

● **The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844** by Karl Marx bit.ly/1vRAO1f

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Some people accept Ukip ideas (top) while others can be won to supporting refugees (above). And protest isn't only for the young (below)



What's more, the logic of elections is that politicians have to appeal to all sections of society to win votes.

The pressure is to accommodate to right wing and ruling class ideas rather than challenging them.

That's why it's important for everyone who backs Corbyn to support him against the right.

We should argue that he shouldn't back down and compromise, but stick to his principles.

But it's also why we need to build a movement outside parliament that can win the kind of change many Corbyn voters want to see.



It's business as usual as party coup ousts Abbott

Workers face more cuts and attacks as Australia's new prime minister looks to appease the rich, writes **James Supple**

AUSTRALIA NOW has its fifth prime minister in just over five years, after Tory leader Tony Abbott was toppled in an internal party coup last week.

His governing Liberal Party was on track for electoral annihilation.

A savage budget last year targeted cuts at pensioners, students, the unemployed, Aboriginal people and the health system all at once.

Abbott came to office in 2013 on the back of disillusionment with a Labour government that had talked of change but delivered cuts and neoliberalism.

He only managed to win by promising “no cuts to education, no cuts to health, no changes to pensions” and no cuts to the public broadcaster, the ABC.

All these promises were broken in the government's first budget. There was an enormous backlash, the upper house of parliament blocked most of the cuts, and Abbott never really recovered.

Contempt

His conservatism over same-sex marriage, open attacks on Muslim leaders and contempt for any action on climate change lost him public support.

Abbott's replacement, Malcolm Turnbull, is a former merchant banker and partner at Goldman Sachs. He has a personal fortune estimated at up to £130 million.

Turnbull is a diehard neoliberal. He declared that he supported “unreservedly and wholeheartedly every element in the budget” last year.

As a minister he presided over cuts at Australia Post that will see 1,900 jobs slashed.

He presents himself as capable of driving through a new wave of attacks through convincing the public of the “case for change” where

BACK STORY

Attempts to push through cuts have seen off a succession of Australian prime ministers

● Malcolm Turnbull is the fifth prime minister in five years

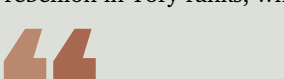
● A savage budget by previous prime minister Tony Abbott last year provoked a backlash

● His party replaced him with Turnbull last week—who now looks to drive through new attacks

Abbott failed. Business leaders were reportedly “ecstatic” at news of his takeover.

The new prime minister has a reputation as more moderate than Abbott, supporting same-sex marriage and action on climate change.

He lost his job as opposition leader after agreeing to negotiate with the former government on the design of a carbon trading scheme. This triggered a rebellion in Tory ranks, where



Turnbull was a merchant banker and partner at Goldman Sachs

climate change denial runs rife.

But Turnbull, anxious to appease the right wing of his party and hold onto the leadership, has already ruled out any significant changes since becoming leader.

He has agreed to stick with the outgoing prime minister's plan for a referendum on same-sex marriage—designed to delay the decision as long as possible. There is also to be continued support for the government's widely ridiculed climate plan.

He has a terrible record on refugees from his period as opposition leader. He declared that, “Only a Turnbull government can stop the boats and secure our borders.”

Battering

Australia got through the global economic crisis without a recession. But Labour and the Liberals have taken a battering after three decades of neoliberal policies.

The effort to push through “economic reform” has seen off a succession of prime ministers.

As the economy stutters due to the slowdown in China, there is pressure on the new prime minister from business to deliver new cuts and attack workers' rights.

It will be up to the unions and the campaigns around refugees, same-sex marriage and climate change to ensure the new prime minister goes the way of the last one.

James Supple is a member of the socialist organisation Solidarity based in Sydney

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015







NATIONAL RALLY AND MARCH
ON THE **CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE**

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

12.00 *NOON*
Assemble Oxford Road from All Saints Park southwards

1.00 *PM*
Opening rally

1.30 *PM*
March through the city on a route that circles the Conference Centre, ending at Deansgate/Whitworth Street for coach pick-ups and dispersal

TAKE BACK MANCHESTER

The People's Assembly and friends from supporting organisations and institutions will host a series of events throughout the week. Topics will include—trade unions, welfare, racism, housing, Islamophobia, war, education, climate, media, TTIP, transport, NHS, economy, Scotland and Europe. These meetings will run alongside a series of direct actions and protests all over Manchester and around the Tory party conference. Evenings will see a full spectrum of entertainment including huge gigs featuring international artists, “Laugh them out of town” comedy nights, spoken word and other performances.

THEPEOPLESASSEMBLY.ORG.UK


THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

www.tuc.org.uk/NoToAusterity @4OctDemo #No2Austerity

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

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It will take more than words to stop this bill

The Tories' Trade Union Bill is a massive assault on our right to organise and strike. But Raymie Kiernan argues that union leaders haven't yet risen to the scale of the challenge

A RIGHT wing hack asked TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady if bad laws should be obeyed. The question came during a press conference the day before the Trade Union Bill went before parliament.

O'Grady's answer didn't inspire confidence that the TUC is going to take on the government. "My focus is on stopping this becoming law," she said.

On the surface it seems sensible—we want to stop the bill becoming law. But the TUC's strategy rests on appealing to slightly more liberal Tories in the hope of defeating it in parliament.

At TUC conference Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey argued that Tory MP David Davis "takes freedom seriously". It's a far cry from his rhetoric about breaking unjust laws.

It's not good enough just to shout about how draconian the bill is (see below). Despite dozens of MPs' speeches opposing it, the bill's second reading passed with ease.

Astonishing

The gap between the scale of the Tory offensive and the required trade union response is astonishing.

McCluskey saying "give us electronic ballots and turnout will never be a problem again" shows how weak the union leaders' strategy really is. They are preparing to work within the new law, not defy it.

The bill's author, Tory business secretary Sajid Javid, knows current ballot rules stifle action. That's why he insists, "There will be no changes to how ballots are carried out."

The point of anti-union laws is to pressure union leaders to police their



SAJID JAVID (right) wants to stop strikes such as the one at the National Gallery. But will union leaders such as Len McCluskey (left) organise the kind of resistance that can stop him in his tracks?

members. If union leaders don't want to do this they should be mobilising their members to fight the bill.

Hotel worker Amna is battling to win union rights in her workplace. She thinks not enough is being done to inform workers about the new bill.

"Unions need to get across the simple message of what it means for us and fast, before it becomes law," she said.

"I ask the union leaders how do we get involved—what is your fight going to look like? I want to be part of it but

you need to lay out clearly what you are going to do."

Tower Hamlets Unison branch secretary John McLoughlin spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

He said, "We can either accept we can't do anything under these laws or we can find ways to resist them."

But even if we don't believe that lobbying MPs will work we shouldn't stand apart from those who do.

As John argues, "The bigger the campaign against the law the better it

lays the ground for what's necessary to defy it afterwards. The two things are connected."

Amna wants to make the government listen. But she says that if the bill passes, "Maybe we should all strike and not got to work. Yes we might break the law but we didn't want this law."

Amna is a pseudonym

More online

Is this the end of the right to strike?
bit.ly/1DmMopH

'We need to prepare to support unofficial action'

A SERIES of trade union demonstrations have been called against the bill—starting outside the Tory Party conference in Manchester on the 4 October.

The bigger the march is the better a launch pad it can be.

Unite the Resistance has organised a meeting after the march to take the debate forward.

There are also set to be two trade union lobbies of parliament on 13 October and 2 November, when the

bill has its third reading.

John argues, "We should think how big a workplace delegation we can get to parliament on those days—they are also a good focus for action for workers in dispute."

The Unite the Resistance conference on 14 November will be an important event to continue the debate.

We also need to think to the future. Bfawu union president Ian Hodson told Socialist Worker he thinks the proposal to use

agency workers to break strikes will sow disunity.

Strategy

He said, "The unions need a strategy to combat that. Agency staff will be threatened with losing work if they don't cross picket lines."

"One focus can be fighting for permanent contracts—let's put the companies on to the back foot."

Unite union construction activist Stewart Hume argues,

"We need to prepare now in our workplaces to organise fighting funds to support workers taking unofficial action."

"If people start getting fined for protests or whatever we need to be ready to show solidarity."

The attack on union facility time or ending the check-off system for collecting union members' fees can also be opposed.

We can demand councils refuse to implement these measures.

John said, "There will be moves to sign members up on direct debit."

"But it's really important that we don't just look inwards to our own organisation. That would be a dangerous step for us."

"There's a connection between campaigning against the anti-union laws and all the other attacks we are facing, you can't separate the two things."

Go to uniteresist.org for more on resistance to the bill

Why we need to kill the bill

THE Tories want to make striking more difficult.

The bill will increase the monitoring of active trade unionists by snooping on social media.

And it demands that strike protest plans are declared two weeks in advance.

The Tories also want to curtail both the funding and the time given for trade union activities.

A new requirement to inform the police of picket line supervisors will effectively create a new blacklist.

In stark contrast bosses get more opportunities to stop strikes in the courts and legal protections to undermine them if they do go ahead.

It will also be easier for bosses to sack workers.

A beefed up regulator, supposedly neutral, will have new powers to investigate and fine unions on a whim.

The Tories are also demanding greater scrutiny of how unions spend their political funds.

This doesn't just mean it will be harder for unions to fund the Labour Party.

The rules will apply to all political campaigning.

And the unions are expected to fund this body.



IN BRIEF

Arrested activists need your cash

PALESTINE solidarity activists arrested on a protest outside an Israeli arms factory in June are appealing for donations. The 19 activists were arrested outside the UAV Engines factory in Staffordshire, owned by Elbit.

All 19 have been charged with breaching an injunction restricting protests outside the factory and have pleaded, or are expected to plead, not guilty. Their next hearing is set to take place at Stafford Crown Court on 27 November. ●Go to tinyurl.com/nnjhxov

Strikes are the best insurance policy

WORKERS AT insurance firm Legal & General's headquarters in Kingswood, Surrey, have voted to strike against closure plans that threaten 1,700 votes.

The Unite union members backed strikes by 63 percent in a consultative ballot on a turnout of 68 percent.

A strike ballot could follow.

Workers build fightback at Sita

CONSTRUCTION workers and their supporters were set to hold another protest against Sita UK bosses at the ICI Wilton site near Redcar this Wednesday.

Workers are demanding that Sita bosses pay them nationally agreed pay rates and have raised health and safety concerns.

Nazis outnumbered in Wigan protests

SOME 200 anti-fascists outnumbered a protest by 50 members of the National Front in Wigan last weekend.

Activists from refugee rights groups and trade unions joined the anti-fascist mobilisation. Police facilitated the fascists' march through the town.

Cardiff bus strikes are suspended

THE UNITE union suspended three bus strikes in Cardiff planned for Friday and Saturday of last week and Wednesday of this week.

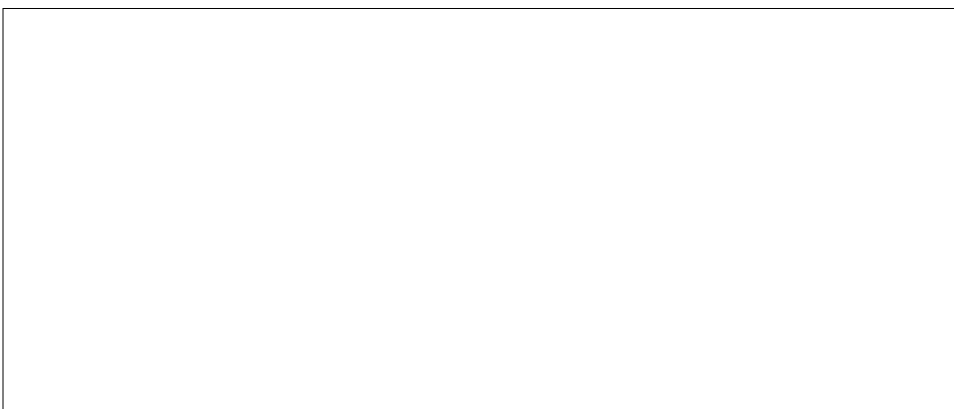
The workers previously struck against a 3 percent pay offer on 29 August and 1 September. They will now be consulted on a new pay offer—but the 1 October strike remains in place.

Labour wins local council by-election

TRADE UNIONIST and Socialist Coalition candidate Paul Burnham got 38 votes in a council by-election in the Noel Park ward of Haringey, north London, last week.

Labour won 60 percent with a well-resourced campaign, promising to build council homes as the Labour council gets rid of them.

EDUCATION



PICKETS IN the NUT and NASUWT unions out in force during the walkouts

Winterbourne school shows strikes can win

by ANNELEMON
NUT national executive (pc)

TEACHERS AT Winterbourne Academy in South Gloucestershire have scored a major victory—and shown that strikes can win.

NUT and NASUWT union members took three days of strikes in a dispute over several grievances, including a draconian performance management policy.

Workers said the school's chief executive Beverley Martin had created a "climate of fear" and complained that she had called them "lazy".

The strikes were big and active, with over 100 people joining some picket lines. Parents and students

supported the strikers.

A further three days of strikes were suspended on Friday of last week after Martin agreed to all the workers' demands.

Suspend

Unions would not suspend the action without workers' agreement, so Martin had to allow them 25 minutes at the start of the day to discuss the deal.

A meeting of over 100 workers agreed to suspend the action.

But workers said they'll be back out if bosses don't honour their agreements

■THE NUT union's Supply Teacher Network has called a lobby of supply agencies for

Wednesday 28 October.

Teachers want pay parity with other teachers and access to teachers' pension schemes.

They will meet at 11.30am at the NUT's central London headquarters.

■ACTION FOR ESOL activists lobbied the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in central London on Wednesday of last week.

They're fighting cuts to English for Speakers of Other Languages (Esol) courses

Action for Esol is co-hosting a lobby of parliament over the cuts on Wednesday 14 October.

Protesters will assemble in front of parliament from 12 noon.

MANUFACTURING

Ideal boiler workers turn up the pressure on bosses

by KEN COYNE

AROUND 200 Ideal Boilers workers in Hull took the first of four planned one-day strikes on Wednesday of last week.

The Unite and GMB union members are fighting for better pay. But



A GMB member picketing

the bosses have refused to increase their pay offer despite earning large profits.

The workers are very active and organised by a works committee from across the plant.

Around 70 pickets gathered outside the factory's three gates.

Strikers include both office and shop floor staff.

The unions plan one day walkouts for the following three Wednesdays. Workers say more action could be called if bosses don't come back with a better pay offer.

PRINT WORKERS

Leeds strikers step up to the plate for pay rise

by STEVE JOHNSTON

UNITE UNION members at the AGFA factory in Leeds struck for 48 hours against low pay on Sunday and Monday of last week.

Pickets were out in force during both days to show bosses that they've

had enough of miserly pay rises.

The print plate bosses' offer of a 0.5 percent pay rise and a one-off payment was the final straw. Workers voted by 62 percent in favour of the strike—the factory's first in 34 years.

●Messages of support to chris.daly@unitetheunion.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A new week-long walkout for Camden NSL wardens

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Camden, central London, were set to begin an eight-day strike for higher pay on Wednesday of this week.

The Unison union members are demanding outsourcing giant NSL pays them £10.50 an hour, and better terms and conditions.

They had previously struck for four days from 2 September.

●Send messages of support

to georgebinette@camden.gov.uk

■WORKERS ACROSS Barnet council in north London have called a strike during the Tory party conference against further privatisation.

The Unison members are set to walk out for 24 hours on Wednesday 7 October. The council is set to publish a report calling for slashing libraries on 2 October.

FAST FOOD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Activists organise to spread fightback

OVER 50 people attended the Fast Food Rights campaign's national organising meeting in central London on Wednesday of last week.

Those attending included several new activists who work in restraunts such as

McDonalds and Nando's.

Lorna McKinnon and Toni Bruce are Fast Food Rights activists and Bfawu food workers' union members in Glasgow.

Lorna told Socialist Worker, "We brought a load of people down from our

workplace. Now they want to go back and organise a union branch for all the food workers on our street."

Toni added, "It was really exciting to meet other workers from around the country."

●More on socialistworker.co.uk

OBITUARY

Louise Rathbone 1966-2015

IT IS with utter shock and sadness that we learned of the passing of our comrade Louise Rathbone on Saturday 19 September.

Louise suffered a suspected heart attack while out walking. She was a member of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) throughout her adult life and had been a district organiser in a number of places.

She helped to recruit and develop many comrades active



Louise Rathbone

in the organisation today.

Most memorably Louise was the Birmingham SWP organiser during the campaign to save the Rover plant at Longbridge in 2000. The

campaign culminated in a 100,000-strong march through the city.

Louise shaped and drove our intervention through the political lead she gave and her persistence in mobilising comrades.

Our arguments for renationalisation found echoes both on the factory floor and in the wider community. We showed how a small party of committed activists could punch above its weight, but were unable to break the inertia of trade union leaders in New Labour's shadow.

Louise was a committed

nurse before being an organiser and went back to work in the NHS and later in education.

As her son Ruben was born in 2003 her ability to intervene in the same way changed, yet her passion for politics remained.

Louise could always be relied upon to bring revolutionary clarity to the changing terrain.

Louise was utterly devoted to Ruben, who she loved and respected immensely. Ruben gave Louise so much pleasure and friendship, and she was rightly proud of her kind and

thoughtful son.

Louise was a revolutionary and a friend, and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go to her son Ruben, her dad John, her sister Sally, and Ruben's older sisters Karis and Keisha.

As they come to terms with such a tragic loss they are well aware that comrades will want to pay their respects to the family and welcome short visits and condolences.

We will pass on any messages and memories that comrades would like to share.

Birmingham SWP District Committee

SCOTLAND

Thousands rally one year after independence vote

by ANDREW DRAFFEN

UP TO 10,000 Scottish independence campaigners rallied in Glasgow's George Square last Saturday to mark one year on from the referendum.

The event was organised by Hope Over Fear and led by socialist Tommy Sheridan.

It brought together trade unionists, Scottish National Party (SNP) supporters and Greens as well as pro-refugee campaigners and anti-Trident activists.

There were united calls for a second referendum. However there were also arguments around electoral strategy and left unity.

Kevin, a fast food worker who joined the SNP after last year's referendum, agrees with the position of Hope Over Fear.

This calls for everyone to unite behind the SNP.

He told Socialist Worker, "We all need to lend our votes to the SNP next year to ensure that we have a government in Scotland which is capable of delivering a second referendum. We can't split the vote."

Not everyone agreed with this strategy.

Some called for a united non-sectarian left to not only fight for independence but



INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGNERS in Glasgow's George Square last Saturday

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

also to fight Tory austerity which the SNP has implemented in councils across Scotland.

Clare, a teacher, told Socialist Worker, "I don't think it is a good idea to call for socialists to vote for the SNP next year."

"We can fight the Tories

now. We can oppose austerity now. We can't wait another five years for a referendum, we need to build a united left now which attacks the rich and not the poor."

Anger at the Labour Party was still palpable on the day.

Sarah, a college student from Glasgow, told Socialist

Worker, "I struggle to see how they will win back the voters they have lost in working class communities".

Others believe that Jeremy Corbyn's recent victory is a reflection of a wider political struggle across the Britain.

John, a retired public sector worker, told Socialist

Worker, "The Labour Party now has a leader who will oppose Tory austerity, attacks on the poor and the trade union bill."

"He may even force the SNP to the left on certain issues such as wealth redistribution and nationalisation of the railways."

COUNCIL WORKERS

Fury at plans to axe jobs

UNISON UNION officials at Edinburgh council have warned of strikes against bosses' plans to axe as many as 3,000 jobs.

Fears are being driven by the implementation of a Transformation Programme by the ruling coalition of Labour and Scottish National Party (SNP) councillors.

The "efficiency" drive could see 15 percent of council staff lose their jobs, £141 million cuts in the next four years and privatisation of services.

On top of this the union said, "Councillors appear to be actively considering officials' recommendations to ditch the council's no compulsory redundancy policy."

Redundancy

Unison City of Edinburgh branch chair Duncan Smith spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

He said, "If the council breaks the agreement on no compulsory redundancies we will ballot for strikes and I urge members to support this action."

"We also call on Labour and SNP councillors not to break their pledges at the last election to address equality and deprivation in the city."

The proposals also mention adopting an Enterprise Wide Strategic Partner model—despite this being overwhelmingly rejected by councillors in 2011.

Raymie Kiernan

●A lobby of the city council against cuts and privatisation was set to take place on Thursday of this week from 8.45am to 9.45am at City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ

STEEL WORKERS

Unions must lead a fight against bosses' attacks

THOUSANDS OF jobs could be at risk in the steel industry as bosses try to palm off the cost of a slump in demand onto workers.

Production at SSI in Redcar, Teesside, was "paused" last week, and the firm could soon go into administration. More than 2,000 people work there.

It follows 250 job cuts at Llanwern in South Wales last month, owned by the Redcar plant's former owner Tata. Tata mothballed part of the Llanwern plant and could be set to do the same elsewhere.

Steel unions are demanding government aid to keep the plant open. Thousands of people have signed a petition started

by a young Redcar woman whose husband, father and brother work at the plant.

However, the unions cannot rely on a Tory government that is at war with workers deciding to throw them a bone.

Steel workers at Tata sites across Britain showed a willingness to fight in a strike ballot over pensions earlier this year.

If given a lead they could put up a real fight for their jobs. Even the plants facing closure represent many millions of pounds worth of equipment that bosses would struggle to get back if workers occupied.

Thousands of jobs must not be let go without a fight. **Dave Sewell**

HOUSING ROUND-UP

Resisting the housing crisis

DEFEND COUNCIL Housing supporters held a march for homes in Haringey, north London, last Saturday. It was against redevelopment plans that will force poor people out of the borough. Council estates, including the famous Broadwater Farm, are to be knocked down.

■ **HUNDREDS OF** people also marched through Stratford, east London, in a protest against evictions called by the Focus E15 campaign. They chanted, "Shame on you" at a branch of Foxton's, an estate agent widely resented for profiting out of gentrification

■ **COPS AND** bailiffs evicted homeless people and their supporters from a camp under the Mancunian Way flyover in central Manchester on Friday of last week. The camp, known as the Ark, has



Marching in north London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

had to move several times since it was set up outside in April. The city's Labour-run council has pursued draconian legal restrictions against them.

Protester Wesley Dove said, "It's disgusting. There has been a woman manhandled, they've destroyed people's possessions."

"Where are they supposed to go?"

STOP THE WAR

Organising against war

AROUND 150 people joined the Stop the War Coalition's annual conference in central London last Saturday.

The coalition's convenor Lindsey German opened the conference by paying tribute to outgoing chair Jeremy Corbyn.

The right wing press claimed Corbyn stood down under pressure.

But a message to the conference said, "I want to make absolutely clear my continuing solidarity with the coalition and its work."

The conference debated building opposition to the prospect of the West bombing Syria.

Lindsey said, "We should not allow the warmongers to use refugees' plight to justify fresh bombing."

Tomás Tengely-Evans

UNISON ELECTION

Support Burgess

THE CAMPAIGN for John Burgess in the general secretary election of the Unison union is going strong. He has now passed the requirement for 25 branch nominations.

John is branch secretary of Barnet Unison in north London. The branch has defended the union from attacks by the Tory-run council, resisted privatisation and has pledged solidarity to other workers fighting back.

The official nomination period continues until 9 October.

Any branch of the union can nominate him at a quorate union meeting.

●For more information and to find out how you can make a donation go to johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.com

SYRIZA'S WIN HIDES CRISIS

The mandate of left party Syriza is weaker despite its re-election in Greece last weekend and its austerity plans will spark more struggle, writes **Dave Sewell**

LEFT WING party Syriza was returned to government in an election in Greece last Sunday, despite widespread dismay at its U-turn over austerity.

Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras immediately renewed his coalition with far right party the Independent Greeks.

But the parties first elected in January to fight austerity are now lining up to implement a massive programme of cuts and privatisation.

And this time their mandate is much weaker. The coalition's majority in parliament slipped from 12 MPs to just five.

Syriza lost over 300,000 votes—half to Popular Unity, a split from its left.

It calls for leaving the euro rather than accept the strings attached to Greece's bailout.

The Independent Greeks lost almost a third of their votes. The two leading pro-austerity opposition parties, New Democracy and The River, also suffered heavy losses.

Popular Unity didn't get enough votes to be represented in parliament. The Communist Party's vote largely held up.

Split

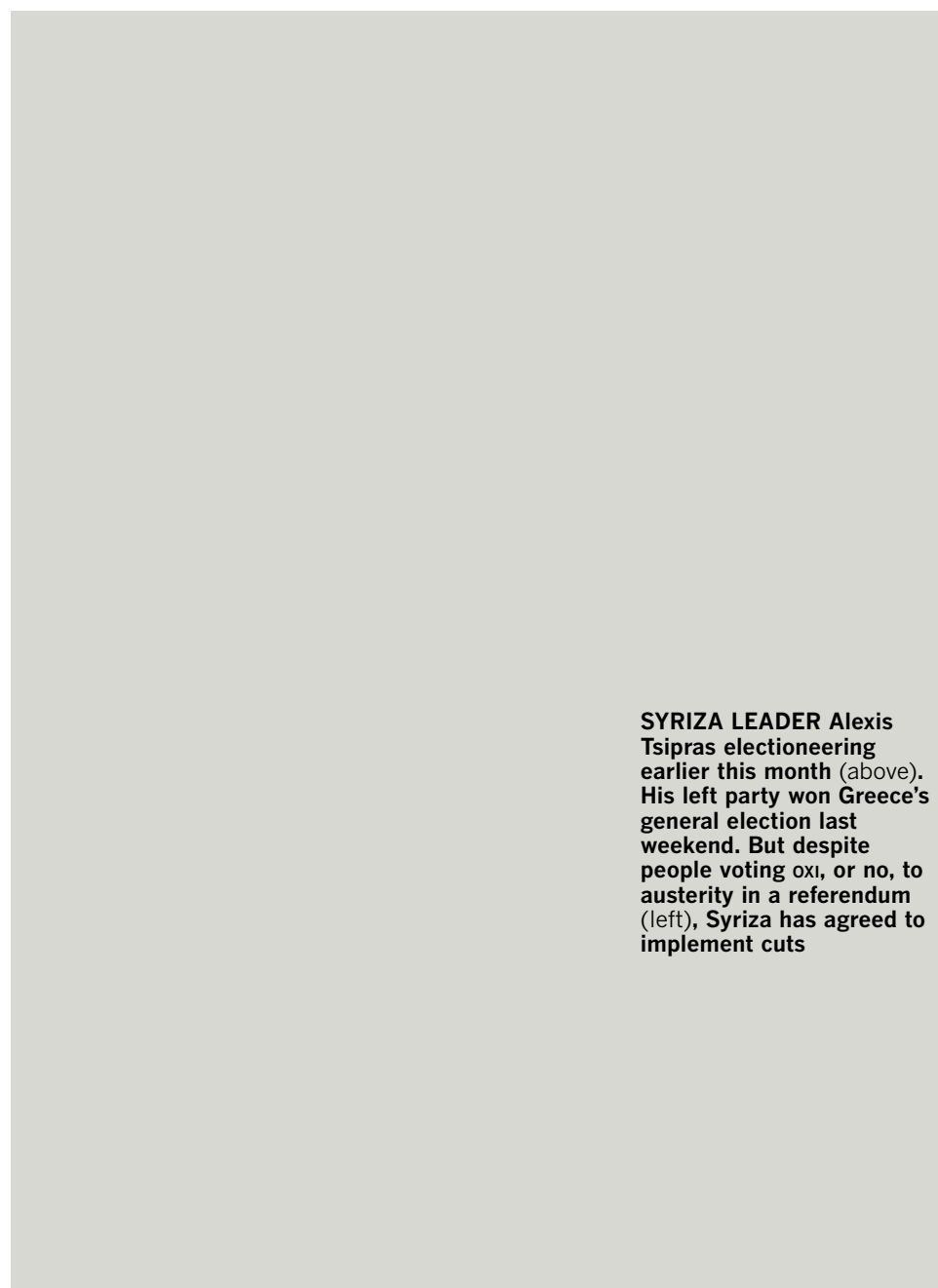
And the anti-capitalist coalition Antarsya made modest gains despite a split from one of its components to join Popular Unity.

But most of the disillusioned voters simply didn't vote. Turnout was the lowest of any election since the end of Greece's dictatorship.

Tsipras boasted that his victory was "even bigger" than Syriza's election in January.

But Panos Garganas, editor of Socialist Worker's sister paper Workers' Solidarity, argued, "This time they are in a much weaker position."

"Tsipras argued that people voted Syriza knowing that it was signed up to an



SYRIZA LEADER Alexis Tsipras electioneering earlier this month (above). His left party won Greece's general election last weekend. But despite people voting *oxi*, or no, to austerity in a referendum (left), Syriza has agreed to implement cuts

austerity deal. But many are opposed to the deal—as we can see from how they voted in the referendum in July.

"People voted tactically to stop the right wing parties coming back. This means Tsipras doesn't have Syriza voters in his pocket. They

were up in arms before and they will be again—only this time with fewer illusions."

The vote of the fascist Golden Dawn largely held up—but with significant falls in the urban districts of Athens, Piraeus and Thessalonica.

And the first major mobilisation under the new government will be an anti-fascist demonstration on Friday of this week.

It will mark two years since strikes that followed the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas.

Protests were also held on the anniversary of his death last Friday.

And as Syriza outlines and tries to implement its cuts, major strikes could soon follow.

This is where the hope for beating austerity lies. Syriza wasn't able to defeat the European Union (EU) at the negotiating table.

The European Central Bank held a gun to the government's head through control of its currency.

Popular Unity rightly calls for a break with the euro.

Currency

But it would take workers' control of banks and industry to stop bosses attacking a new drachma currency and hiking up prices.

Strikers who have scored victories against cuts by taking control in the state broadcaster ERT, the state electricity and the health service have shown this is possible.

Panos said, "The economic situation is getting worse—there is no way Syriza is going to get concessions out of the EU."

"The EU itself is more hated than it was even a few months ago—the refugee crisis means people see it as an institution of racism and austerity."

"Those trade union leaders who support austerity lost out massively in the referendum, and this limits their ability to hold back the rank and file."

"And there is a stronger anti-austerity left. A united front between Antarsya, Popular Unity and at least parts of the Communist Party can provide stronger support to those who resist."

"It will take a fight to build resistance—but the possibilities are there."

"Rebellions should get stronger, not weaker, in the coming months."

PALESTINE

Protesters take on the Israeli state

PROTESTS have flared up across East Jerusalem and the West Bank as Israeli forces attacked Palestinians defending themselves from Israeli activists.

Soldiers attacked Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem on Sunday 13 September.

The Palestinians were trying to defend the Al Aqsa Mosque compound from an incursion by Israelis.

The Israelis claimed they were trying to pray at the site, which is holy to both Jews and Muslims.

But most of those trying to enter were members of "Temple

Binyamin Netanyahu

Activism" groups.

They want to demolish the mosque and replace it with a Jewish temple.

They were headed up by Israeli agriculture minister Uri Ariel. He has called for a temple to be built on what they believe to be the site of Jerusalem's ancient temple.

Protests have spread to areas of the occupied West Bank such as Bethlehem, Nablus and Jenin.

There have also been protests in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli soldiers in East Jerusalem have responded by attacking Palestinians.

Palestinian Authority police clamped down on protests in the West Bank.

Meanwhile Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu has backed proposed legislation for mandatory jail sentences for Palestinian stone-throwers.

Nick Clark